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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Forty-sixth session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE FIRST PART* OF THE 24th MEETING (PUBLIC)

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 14 February 1990, at 3.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mrs. REGAZZOLI (Argentina)

later: Mrs. QUISUMBING (Philippines)

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*/ The summary record of the second part of the meeting (closed) appears as document E/CN.4/1990/SR.24/Add.1.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT, IN PARTICULAR:

(a) TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

(b) STATUS OF THE CONVENTION AGAINST TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

(c) QUESTION OF ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES (agenda item 10) (continued) (E/CN.4/1990/12, 13, 15, 16, 17 and Add.1; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/28, and 29/Rev.1; E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/28; A/44/708)

1. Mr. MAZARIEGOS (International Union of Students) said that the University Students' Association at San Carlos National University in Guatemala had over 60,000 members and was affiliated to the International Union of Students. Since its establishment in 1920, the Association had striven to defend not only the interests of the academic community, but also those of the population at large and to help as best it could to solve their problems. Since 1978, however, its members and leaders had been the victims of the repressive policy conducted by successive military Governments and by the civilian Government currently in power. Many students had been imprisoned and tortured, or had been reported missing. At the end of February 1989, a further campaign of harassment and intimidation had been launched against students by the security forces and the Guatemalan army, and by paramilitary groups. That development had been denounced both nationally and internationally, inter alia at the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The Government of Guatemala had stated that all those allegations were unfounded and that the students were simply seeking to tarnish its image. Subsequently, several students who had been arrested by the police had disappeared, but the authorities claimed not to know their whereabouts and ignored requests for information by the students' association.

2. So far, more than 20 students, including leaders of the students' association, had disappeared in that way and their names had joined the roll of over 42,000 persons detained or missing in Guatemala. The bodies of only nine of them had been found, and they had borne signs of torture. Several students had been compelled under threat to leave Guatemalan territory and currently had no guarantee that they would be able to return to their country. The civilian Government had asserted that it was capable of guaranteeing the lives of all those who requested its protection. That guarantee had persuaded Marco Tulio Montenegro, the leader in exile of the students' association, to return to Guatemala, where he had immediately been kidnapped, tortured and murdered.

3. How could one speak of democracy and respect for human rights in Guatemala when not only Guatemalans but also foreign citizens, including civil servants, the United States nun Diana Mack Ortíz, the second secretary of the Nicaraguan Embassy and the leader of the Salvadorian Social-Democrat Party Héctor Oquelí, were kidnapped, tortured and murdered there? If the Guatemalan Government, which was supposed to protect the lives of citizens, did nothing to end that situation, the onus lay with the international community to take steps to ensure respect for peace, freedom and democracy. The Commission

should call on the Guatemalan Government to comply with its national and international obligations, and should appoint an impartial special rapporteur to examine the question of the serious human rights violations in Guatemala.

4. The families of all those who had disappeared, been murdered or been forced to leave the country had suffered long enough. The Guatemalans wanted the law to be respected in their country, they wanted torture to stop and they wanted measures to establish a genuine democracy, with all necessary guarantees, in a country where, as Mr. Kooijmans (Special Rapporteur on Torture) had observed, no citizen could be sure, when he went to bed, that he would still be alive the next day.

5. Mr. ALI (Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants) said that the question of the detention, disappearance and death of staff members of the United Nations and related organizations had repeatedly been considered by the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission and the General Assembly. However, no solution had been found to that problem, which was actually growing worse. Over 100 international civil servants were currently detained in some 15 countries. It was to be hoped that the radical changes that had occurred in some parts of the world would affect the situation of all those international civil servants who had been arrested or abducted while carrying out the duties with which they had been entrusted by the world community.

6. The security of international civil servants was a major issue. Clearly, as the world increasingly turned to the United Nations to deal with difficult and sensitive questions, it would be impossible for its officials to perform their task satisfactorily if they were under constant threat of arrest or imprisonment. United Nations action could only be effective if the independence of its officials was guaranteed and respected by all Member States, in accordance with the Charter.

7. His organization would support any measures the Commission might take to solve the problem, and endorsed the efforts made to that end by the Secretary-General and the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination. Above all, greater efforts should be made to obtain as much information as possible whenever an international civil servant was arrested or abducted, so as to determine the most effective form of action to be taken.

8. His organization expressed its solidarity with the two ICRC delegates who had been abducted in Lebanon some months previously. Although they were not international civil servants, they had been performing similar duties to those of United Nations staff members.

9. Mrs. ROUSSO-LENOIR (International Federation for Human Rights) noted that in his report (E/CN.4/1990/26) the Special Representative on the situation of human rights in El Salvador said that the number of cases of summary execution, abduction, disappearance, arrest on political grounds, torture and ill-treatment attributable both to the security forces and to the "death squads" was increasing in El Salvador. Furthermore, according to information received by the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), the number had grown even further since the declaration of the state of siege on 12 November 1989. The everyday practice of torture was facilitated by the emergency legislation, which allowed accused persons to be held incommunicado for two weeks without being informed of the reasons for their arrest or being

assisted by a lawyer. Consequently, her organization expressed surprise that in paragraph 73 of his report the Special Representative, who had gathered a large number of statements to corroborate the existence of torture, said that torture did not appear to be widespread or to be an institutionalized policy. It was also surprised to find no trace of the long testimony, dated September 1989, by César Vielman Joya, a former member of the First Infantry Brigade, Section 2 of the special forces, which had nevertheless been given to the Special Representative and contained important information on the close links between that Brigade and the death squads. And it was deeply concerned about the Penal Code reform bill (mentioned in para. 81 of the report), several of whose provisions were contrary to international law.

10. Her organization accordingly requested the Commission to renew the mandate of the Special Representative, and to recommend that he exercise particular and constant vigilance on the question of detention and make an on-the-spot visit whenever the protection of human rights was rendered more precarious by the particular intensity of the armed conflict.

11. Turning to other countries, she said that in Morocco there had been little improvement in the human rights situation. Over the previous six months, many students had been tried and sentenced, occasionally to very heavy penalties, for actions connected with freedom of opinion and expression, which was severely restricted in Morocco. In August 1989, three persons had died in police premises, in still unelucidated circumstances. Her organization accordingly requested the Commission to continue to monitor developments in the human rights situation in Morocco.

12. The changes in Eastern Europe were having as yet varied consequences for the administration of justice. In Poland, the Amnesty Act adopted in June 1989 had not effectively rescinded convictions of human rights activists by the courts, and above all by the Collégiums, which were political institutions incompatible with the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Furthermore, the Act made no provision for the reimbursement of unlawful fines or for compensation for unfair sentences. Consequently, her organization and the Polish Human Rights League, which was affiliated to it, called on the Commission to invite the Government of Poland to amend the Amnesty Act in order to establish proper conditions for the effective enjoyment of human rights.

13. In Bulgaria, the question of persons who had been sentenced for having exercised their right to freedom of opinion and expression and were currently in exile had still not been resolved. Although Bulgaria had enacted legislation repealing a number of articles of the Penal Code and amnestying persons sentenced under those articles, there was still deep concern about the possible return of exiles sentenced under article 104 - relating to spying - who were so far not eligible for an amnesty. That article had been broadly applied, in particular to Bulgarians of Turkish origin and to human rights activists who had had oral or written contact with foreigners, and had been used as a pretext for heavy sentences, and even for the death sentence. Bulgarian associations, independent trade unions and political parties had moreover requested the President of the Bulgarian Council of State to remedy that situation. Her organization was convinced that Bulgaria would make a point of confirming to the international community its intention henceforth to comply effectively with its international commitments.

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14. Lastly, she drew the attention of the Commission to the problem of hostage-taking, whose cowardly nature made it a particularly abhorrent form of unlawful detention, and in particular to an especially poignant case as it affected, in addition to their parents, two young children and two teenagers, the sons and daughters of the Valente-Houtekins hostages, of whom no news had been received since July 1989. Now that the Convention on the Rights of the Child had been adopted, the Commission should adopt a resolution again condemning hostage-taking, with a specific reference to minors.

15. Mr. LITTMAN (World Union for Progressive Judaism) said that a certain selectivity was necessary in view of the breadth of the questions covered by item 10. Among the various evils that needed to be denounced, there was one, political hostage-taking, that entailed one of the most odious and degrading forms of detention and inhuman treatment, and was the natural bedfellow of international terrorism and the bombing of civilian aircraft. Every major world leader knew that three-headed monster and the ravages it produced among the innocent. However, no one dared speak of it. The Commission itself barely touched upon the subject, and contented itself with adopting annual resolutions expressing its distress at the situation. In resolution 1989/26, adopted at its forty-fifth session, it had no longer even noted, as it had done in resolution 1988/38, that hostages were increasingly "nationals of States chosen in order to put pressure on those States or on third parties". That was exactly the most pertinent aspect of the issue, especially now that the names of the States behind international terrorism had become common knowledge. It might be asked why people refused to call a spade a spade and to denounce not only the despicable acts themselves, but also the politico-theological ideologies underpinning them, as well as those States that gave financial and logistic support to terrorists.

16. There were many foreign hostages in Lebanon, a situation that was undermining the credibility of Islam, as Sheik Fadlallah, the spiritual guide to the Hezbollah in the Lebanon, had declared. Hostage-taking and international terrorism could never claim to be the voice of Islam or of its noblest and most hallowed traditions. The whole world was awaiting the next series of explosions and abductions by one of the most infamous terrorist organizations, such as the Hezbollah or the Abu Nidal or Ahmed Jibril groups, which had concluded an unholy alliance with Iran, where most of those barbarous acts were organized, with the complicity of Syria and Libya. It was high time Islamic political leaders and intellectuals spoke out openly against that travesty of their universal spiritual heritage, as Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and a number of Arab writers had done.

17. The crimes committed by members of Abu Nidal's group were well known. However, those of his members who had dissociated themselves from him and left Libya had been welcomed with open arms by the PLO and the Arab countries, which were well aware of their crimes. Ahmed Jibril was as famous as Abu Nidal, and probably responsible for the deaths of hundreds of innocent passengers in the two bomb attacks against the Pan American aircraft in December 1988 in Scotland and against the UTA aircraft in 1989 in Africa. Those two criminals would probably find asylum in Teheran if like Libya, Syria changed its policy towards them.

18. As to the death sentence passed on 14 February 1989 by Ayatollah Khomeiny against the British writer Salman Rushdie, it had recently been confirmed by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and extended to anyone who had been involved in the printing or publication of the novel in question. The Iranian Minister of the Interior had called on the Hezbollah to execute the sentence and the leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah had vowed that he would do everything possible to ensure that that was done. Salman Rushdie had thus become a prisoner of conscience, sentenced for having exercised his right to freedom of opinion and expression, as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other international instruments. The World Union for Progressive Judaism had been the first to raise the issue in the Commission at its forty-fifth session, and many countries, in particular Spain (on behalf of the European Community), the United Kingdom, the United States and France, had subsequently condemned Iran.

19. The CHAIRMAN requested the speaker to end his statement as he had exceeded the time allotted to him.

20. Mr. PIQUERAS LUNA (Pax Romana), a deputy to the Peruvian Parliament, speaking on his own behalf and on behalf of a number of interested persons, said that in March and April 1989 a group of lawyers concerned with the defence of human rights in Peru had asked him to conduct a political and legal analysis of the activities of the Rodrigo Franco group, which was responsible for murders, death threats, bomb attacks and abductions, mainly in Lima and the department of Ayacucho. In particular, he referred to the murder of the deputy Arroyo Mio on 27 April 1989. Together with his friends, he (Mr. Piqueras Luna) had wished to break the conspiracy of silence surrounding investigations into the activities of the Rodrigo Franco group, and had accordingly proposed to the Chamber of Deputies that a parliamentary commission of inquiry should be set up. Many politicians representing various shades of opinion, together with a number of independent figures, had repeatedly expressed support for that initiative to the President of the Chamber of Deputies. As a result of that pressure, the majority group in the Chamber had accepted that a commission of inquiry should be set up, although it had appointed a majority of its own members to the commission.

21. The commission had been set up in early June 1989 and had carried out its investigations in Lima and in the areas affected by disturbances until the end of July. During that period, his daughter had been abducted; fortunately, she had been returned to her family, who had sent her abroad for her own protection. At the beginning of August, members of the opposition had drafted a preliminary report, which they had sent to the Chamber of Deputies, calling for an extension of the duration of the inquiry, and the appointment of a new chairman of the commission, as the current chairman had taken up other duties. In the report it was also proposed that the terrorist gang should be charged with the crime of "non-subversive terrorism", and that the anti-terrorist legislation should accordingly be applied to its leaders.

22. The report summarized the theories adduced by the armed forces' intelligence services, according to which the Rodrigo Franco group had ramifications throughout the country, possessed considerable resources, aimed to make a psychological and social impact on the population, enjoyed support within the army, the police and certain sectors of the civilian population, and was endeavouring to extend its field of action. The report listed and gave the dates of, 159 murders, bomb attacks, abductions, etc., none of which had been investigated by the national police.

23. Unfortunately, the requests made in the report had been rejected, on the grounds that the inquiry had been completed. At the same time, the authors of the report had received death threats. However, as public opinion had been informed that the work of the commission of inquiry had been halted, and thanks to media pressure, the parliamentary majority had agreed to appoint a new chairman and to extend the commission's mandate. Its activities had thus resumed in August and September, with a view to the preparation of a final report.

24. However, at the beginning of October, the new chairman of the commission had abruptly declared that it had completed its work. Shortly before that, important documents had been taken from one of the members of the commission, and the new chairman had forbidden members to consult its files. Finally, the members of the opposition on the commission had decided to submit the final report to the Chamber of Deputies, and had sent copies to the various political movements, to the media and to institutions and public figures in the international community who had supported its work. In the conclusions of the final report, Mr. Mantilla Campos, the Minister of the Interior, national police officers holding the rank of general and members of the Aprista party were identified as being implicated in the terrorist activities of the Rodrigo Franco Command. The parliamentary majority on the commission had not so far presented a report, thereby preventing a debate in the Chamber of Deputies. The persons identified in the final report, whom he mentioned by name, still remained in office. All persons interested in the report could obtain a copy from his delegation.

25. Mrs. KIRCHER (Amnesty International) expressed regret that 15 years after the adoption of the Declaration against Torture, her organization continued to receive almost daily reports of torture from all regions of the world. Although 50 States had acceded to the Convention, and despite the recent adoption of the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment, much remained to be done before the safeguards contained in those and other instruments were universally and effectively implemented. The Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Committee against Torture were working towards that goal; Amnesty International welcomed the steps taken to strengthen co-operation between them.

26. She wished to give a number of examples of countries whose Governments failed to respect international standards concerning the prevention and punishment of torture. She stressed that they were merely examples.

27. In Myanmar, reports involving at least six security agencies had been received from various parts of the country, yet the Government seemed to have taken no effective measures. For several years, Amnesty International had documented a routine pattern of torture in areas inhabited by ethnic minorities, in connection with military operations against insurgent groups. Recent information indicated that the same pattern was also present in towns. Many of the students and political activists seized in mass arrests during 1988 and 1989 had reportedly been subjected inter alia to electric shocks, burns and near-drowning; torture had sometimes resulted in death.

28. In Mauritania, the ordinary 48-hour period of custody could be extended to 30 days in cases involving State security. In 1989, many persons had been held illegally for even longer periods. The number of cases of torture reported had increased significantly following the disturbances between

Mauritania and Senegal. Hundreds of persons had been arrested between April and September 1989, almost all of them black Mauritanians of southern origin. The methods of torture reported included the so-called "jaguar", which involved the victim being suspended upside down and beaten on the soles of his feet. She mentioned the case of Mohamed Yéro Bâ, a headmaster from Tétiane and a member of the Kaédi town council, who had reportedly died after being subjected to the "jaguar" and being suspended over a fire.

29. In Turkey, most allegations of torture concerned the initial period of detention. Proposed draft legislative changes aimed at reducing that period from 15 to between 4 and 10 days. However, in areas under emergency legislation, people could still be held incommunicado for a maximum of 20 days. During the first 10 months of 1989, 500 political prisoners had allegedly been tortured and 10 were reported to have died in custody. More recently, Ufuk Gurbuz and other men arrested at the beginning of January 1990 were reported to have been badly tortured; Ufuk Gurbuz was reportedly unable to walk or speak after that treatment.

30. During the past nine months Amnesty International had received from Papua New Guinea a large number of reports of torture by the police and army, in the context of special measures taken to combat an armed rebel group, including a state of emergency declared in Bougainville in June 1989, under which the security forces had been vested with exceptional powers. People suspected of involvement with the rebel movement had been severely tortured; in some cases they had died, while in others the victims had subsequently been killed. In August 1989, the corpses of Ambrose Leo, Peter Tarupin and John Tuka had been brought to Arawa general hospital, where autopsies had confirmed that all three had suffered physical assaults prior to death. It had also been reported that Vincent Onari had been beaten at Army Camp 10 at Panguna, before being shot four times in the head. The Government and military officials had maintained that it was impossible to carry out investigations in the current circumstances.

31. In Brazil, reports of cases of torture of common criminals and suspects were commonplace, as was the failure of the authorities to conduct prompt investigations. Such inaction had led to a dramatic increase in the number of serious abuses. In February 1989, following an attempted escape, 51 prisoners had been shut in an unventilated cell in the 42nd police precinct in Sao Paulo; 18 of them had died of asphyxiation. Although inquiries had been opened, they had made little progress; two police officers had been suspended from duty for 30 days and then simply transferred. In March 1989, more than 1,000 prisoners in a prison in Sao Paulo, the Casade Detençao, had reportedly been stripped and severely beaten after two of them had attempted to escape; almost one year later, internal inquiries by the police and prison authorities had still not been completed.

32. Although the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had announced, in 1986, its intention to accede to the Convention against Torture, Amnesty International continued to receive numerous reports of torture of political prisoners by the Syrian security forces. In addition, victims of torture had allegedly been denied medical treatment for injuries sustained. Four Palestinians detained for between four and six years at the Military Interrogation Branch in Damascus were reported to be in a critical state of health on account of torture and detention in poor conditions. Amnesty International had frequently drawn the attention of the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to cases of torture, but had never received a reply.

33. Amnesty International urged the Commission to redouble its efforts against serious human rights violations such as torture, summary or arbitrary executions and enforced disappearances, to give strong support to the important work of the special rapporteurs and the Working Group, and to take all other steps necessary to ensure that Governments implemented provisions which would bring those abuses to an end.

34. Mr. BRODY (International Commission of Jurists) said that in the past 10 years the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances had reported some 19,000 cases to Governments; in 1989, it had reported 700 new cases, an alarming increase over the 1988 figure of 400.

35. For 10 years, the Working Group had been using methods, in particular an urgent action procedure, which served as models for the other "thematic" procedures. Unfortunately, its efforts were hampered by the attitude of States that failed to reply to requests for information, responded with blanket denials or gave inaccurate information. It should be borne in mind that of the "thematic" mechanisms, the Group was the only one that invited the authors of complaints to comment on Governments' responses.

36. His organization suggested that before adopting resolutions, the Commission should pay greater attention to the recommendations of the Working Group, whether they were general recommendations regarding the protection of witnesses and relatives, the maintenance of habeas corpus in all circumstances and the need for impartial investigations, or appeals to specific countries that had failed to co-operate with the Group or to implement its recommendations. It also suggested that the Group should, as with the other "thematic" mechanisms, be given a mandate of more than two years.

37. In connection with the draft declaration on the protection of all persons from enforced or involuntary disappearances, he pointed out that since there was no international instrument on the question, there was at present no machinery available to States to prevent disappearances. At its two most recent sessions, the Working Group on Detention had considered a draft declaration, but the text would probably not be finalized for several years because of lack of time. In order to speed matters up, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) had arranged to convene an informal meeting in Geneva, in March, for the members of the Working Group on Detention and other persons involved in preparing the draft declaration, in particular government representatives and members of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. A revised text would be prepared at the meeting for submission to the Working Group on Detention, in order to allow the Sub-Commission to adopt it in 1990. Thus, there was reason to hope that at its 1991 session the Commission would have the Sub-Commission's draft declaration before it.

38. On the subject of the independence of judges and lawyers, he was pleased that the Commission had, in 1989, requested the Sub-Commission to consider effective means of monitoring the implementation of the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Protection of Practising Lawyers. At the 1989 session of the Sub-Commission, the ICJ's Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers had presented a report with a list of 145 judges and lawyers who had been harassed, detained or killed on account of their professional activities in 31 countries between January 1988 and June 1989. The Sub-Commission had responded by adopting a resolution

declaring itself disturbed at the continued harassment and persecution of judges and lawyers in many countries, and had invited Mr. Louis Joinet to prepare a working paper on means by which the Sub-Commission could assist in ensuring respect for the independence of the judiciary and the protection of practising lawyers. He hoped that the Commission would give its support to Mr. Joinet.

39. At its previous session, the Commission had requested the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to take into account the standards prepared for the Sub-Commission by Mr. Singhvi in completing work on the basic principles on the role of lawyers. He was pleased that that Committee had actually strengthened those principles by taking into account standards prepared in the Sub-Commission. He was confident that when the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders met in August 1990 in Havana, it would adopt a strong set of basic principles on the role of lawyers to match the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary adopted five years previously.

40. Mr. LOPEZ (Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America), refering to the report by the Special Rapporteur on Torture (E/CN.4/1990/17) and to information received by non-governmental organizations, said that urgent action had been taken in 51 cases by the Special Rapporteur in 26 countries, including 5 in Central America.

41. In Guatemala, on 11 May 1988 and 9 May 1989 two abortive coups d'état had been preceded by serious human rights violations against supporters of peace, in particular university personnel. On 1 August 1989, Danilo Barillas, a former Guatemalan Ambassador to Spain, had been murdered. On 9 August 1989, two students, Roberto Mazariegos and Mario Hernández Centeno, had been arrested by the police, who had subsequently denied their unlawful arrest. Victor Hugo Rodriguez Jaramillo, his wife Silvia María Azurdia Utrera, Carlos Humberto Cabrera, Carlos Camey Chutá and Eduardo Antonio López Palencia had been abducted and later found dead, with signs of torture on their bodies. Erick Antonio Roldán Montúfar had been abducted, tortured and threatened with death in order to force him to leave the country. Six other students had been abducted and had disappeared. A United States nun, Diana Mack Ortíz, had been abducted with the complicity of the police, before being raped and tortured in a secret prison.

42. Disappearances had continued under the Government of Vinicio Cerezo. Amnesty International had reported 222 cases between January 1986 and 1989. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances had also reported the continuation of disappearances in its report (E/CN.4/1988/19/Add.1). The Government had failed to order the requisite investigations into the cases reported; the Office of the Procurator for Human Rights had solved only 218 cases out of 1,200. Guatemala had recognized the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, albeit with reservations concerning the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture.

43. In El Salvador, there had been numerous victims in each of the cases in which the Special Rapporteur had taken urgent action, as indicated in paragraphs 56-61 of document E/CN.4/1990/17. The Government had made only an evasive reply, simply stating that the Salvadorian Human Rights Commission (governmental) had not been informed of the arrest of some of the victims.

44. In Honduras, the Special Rapporteur had received personal testimony from recent victims of torture transmitted through a non-governmental organization, the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, which had also given him a report on 560 cases of torture notified during the previous decade. Of those cases 241 had occurred in 1989 and 98 per cent had been attributed to the army and the police.

45. The authorities had told the Special Rapporteur that 100 police officers had been dismissed for abuse of authority, and that more than 1,200 members of the police and the armed forces had been disciplined or tried for unlawful arrest or torture, although no evidence in support of those statements had been produced, to judge from paragraphs 239 and 240 of the report. Following the two convictions handed down by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the State could be held responsible only for the disappearance of the student José Leonel Suazo Castillo in February 1989, but according to statistics for that year provided by the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, 39 arbitrary or extra-judicial executions, 8 murders of a more clearly political nature, 45 cases of death threats and 101 other offences against individuals and property had also occurred.

46. In Nicaragua, he had in April 1989 visited the seven Honduran prisoners at Tipitapa on whose behalf the Special Rapporteur had made an urgent appeal and had found them to be in a satisfactory physical and mental condition, thus confirming the statements by ICRC. The Nicaraguan Government had also submitted documents testifying that the persons concerned had voluntarily joined the former National Guard, as Nicaraguan citizens.

47. The Special Rapporteur had considered and resolved only one case in Panama between August and October 1989. Since 20 December 1989, however, the Panamanian people had been living in terror. On that date, bombing, which had begun in the early morning, had devastated whole districts inhabited by the poorest sectors of the population. Those acts constituted a veritable genocide within the meaning of article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. According to some reports, children aged between three months and eight years had been taken into custody in order to compel their parents to give themselves up to the invaders.

48. His organization supported the resolution of the Human Rights Commission of the Congress of Guatemala, in which 11 of the 12 members of the Commission, representing all political parties, called on the international community to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate the serious violations left unpunished by the Government of Guatemala. Secondly, his organization called for an end to illegal arrests and prolonged incommunicado detention in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama, and for enforcement of domestic legislation requiring investigations into the above-mentioned crimes and punishment of those responsible for them. Thirdly, all those Governments that had not so far signed or ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment should do so. And fourthly, the troops that had invaded Panama should leave the country so as to permit the restoration of a lawful Government chosen through self-determination.

49. Mrs. Quisumbing (Philippines) took the Chair.

50. Mr. SALAZAR (Andean Commission of Jurists) acknowledged the efforts made in recent years by the Commission on Human Rights and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to monitor those practices systematically throughout the world. Thanks to those efforts the international community was not only aware of the problem, but had also begun to set a valuable mechanism in motion. In view of the magnitude of the phenomenon, however, efforts needed to be redoubled.

51. For many years, enforced disappearance had been used by certain military dictatorships in Latin America to combat their opponents or political dissidents. However, the context had changed and, in the Andean region, the practice was now employed by constitutional Governments which were generally grappling with a situation characterized by extreme political and social violence and resorted to enforced disappearance as a means of repression to combat insurrection. Thus, in Colombia and Peru disappearances, which had for some years remained isolated occurrences, were currently commonplace. Far from bringing peace, however, enforced disappearances made the conflict between security forces and insurgents more complex, deprived action by the authorities of legitimacy and fostered disquiet among the civilian population, which, although alien to the conflict, was the victim of the practice.

52. In Colombia, according to various human rights groups, more than 270 disappearances had occurred between January and September 1989. The Commission's Working Group was familiar with the problem as it had carried out a mission to Colombia in 1988. In spite of the increased attention paid by the international community to events in Colombia, there was unfortunately no sign that the practice would be terminated. The Commission must determine whether efforts had been made in Colombia to implement the recommendations made by the Working Group at the forty-fifth session, and must ask for an explanation of that question.

53. According to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Peru had been the country with the greatest number of complaints of disappearances in 1987 and 1988. According to the Group's report, that trend had persisted in 1989. However, Peru had also been visited by a Working Group mission, which had made important recommendations, but they did not seem to have been taken into account. While it was true that the country's legally-constituted authorities faced a constant challenge in the form of acts of provocations by "Shining Path", the result of combating terrorism and murderous acts by methods which left the population bewildered and undermined the credibility of the State was to favour those who were being combated.

54. With those considerations in mind, and taking into account the inherent difficulties of the situation, his organization considered that the international community, through the Commission on Human Rights, should, without delay, exhort the Colombian and Peruvian authorities to implement the principles of the International Bill of Human Rights and put an end to disappearances, beginning with action to investigate the disappearances reported and punish those responsible. It was important that the remedy of habeas corpus should be fully enforced, as it was seriously limited by law in Colombia, and in Peru it was virtually ineffective in areas under the state of emergency. The remedy of habeas corpus was one of the most effective means of

combating disappearances. By putting an end to that practice, the constitutional authorities would affirm their legitimacy in the difficult circumstances confronting them.

55. Mrs. BUDIARJO (Liberation) said that she wished to speak about political detention and ill-treatment in East Timor, and in particular the circumstances surrounding the four-hour visit by Pope John Paul II to East Timor in October 1989. During the months prior to that visit, the security forces had carried out raids, large numbers of arrests and even, allegedly, summary executions, but all those measures had not prevented several hundred people from making a public demonstration of protest at the papal mass. As was to be expected, repression had been swift. The previous week, Amnesty International had reported that 25 people had been arrested in the two months following the Pope's visit and that most of them had suffered ill-treatment and torture.

56. The Pope's departure had immediately been followed by a crackdown that had generated such an atmosphere of fear that dozens of young people had taken sanctuary in the residence of the Bishop of Dili, and others had gone into hiding. At the beginning of November, 33 pupils and young workers still in Bishop Belo's home had been forcibly removed by the police. Tension had increased still further at the Bishop's home when, on 4 November, troops had been stationed around the building as an intimidatory measure by the authorities, who had accused the Bishop and other priests of having organized the demonstration during the papal mass. Dozens of young people who had gathered to express sympathy with the Bishop had been attacked and had in turn stoned the military vehicles. A few days later, those who had remained in the residence had been prevailed upon to leave; after they had done so, eight of them had immediately been arrested.

57. On 14 November 1989, troops and police had forcibly entered Sao José de Dili school in search of four people. Many schoolchildren had fled when the school had been surrounded by the soldiers and, two days later, during a clash between young people and soldiers driving a military vehicle, the soldiers had shot dead one of the schoolchildren and seriously wounded two others. In those circumstances, it was little wonder that people had begun to speak of an intifadah in East Timor; further arrests had been made and, again, young people had taken refuge in the Bishop's home.

58. As East Timor was cut off from the outside world, many people had decided, in order to publicize the situation, to organize a protest movement during the official visit to East Timor on 17 January 1990 by the United States Ambassador in Djakarta. Although troops had caught and taken away many demonstrators, they had failed to prevent a one-hour dialogue between the demonstrators and the Ambassador. According to Australian tourists who had been present, the demonstrators had complained of human rights violations and told the United States Ambassador that they opposed Indonesian rule in East Timor. When the Ambassador had left, police equipped with batons and firearms had surrounded the students. According to one witness, a limp body had been taken away on a stretcher, many students had been covered with blood and some of them seriously injured. The spokesman for the armed forces in Djakarta had denied that anyone had been arrested or killed, and had simply stated that people had been taken in for questioning. While insisting that the demonstration had not been political in nature, he had acknowledged that the demonstrators had told the United States Ambassador

that they did not agree with East Timor's integration into the Republic of Indonesia, and that the demonstration had been linked to previous incidents. Nothing about the incidents had been reported in the Indonesian press.

59. Under international pressure, the Indonesian Government had been compelled to open up the territory, but it was no easier than before to monitor human rights abuses, as information could only leave the country via clandestine channels. International human rights organizations had been unable to carry out independent on-the-spot verification; diplomats and parliamentarians invited by the Indonesian authorities were allowed to visit only one prison in Dili, and were told nothing of the many other places of detention where prisoners were tortured and ill-treated. Those places included not only military premises, but also the private homes of pro-Indonesian East Timorese.

60. The Chairman of the Institute for the Defence of Human Rights in Djakarta, after receiving information from abroad, had on several occasions attempted, in vain, to obtain clarification about the above-mentioned incidents from the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. In August 1989, he had been due to attend the session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to speak about human rights in East Timor but had been refused permission to leave Indonesia. Consequently, the recommendation adopted by the Sub-Commission asking the Commission to consider the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in East Timor was more topical than ever before.

61. Mrs. del VALLE ALVAREZ (International Association of Educators for World Peace) said that her organization considered freedom and peace to be indissoluble; in other words, understanding among peoples was possible only on the basis of freedom to make social and political choices, which was itself a guarantee for tolerance. The whole world had become familiar with the concepts of glasnost and perestroika, which heralded hope, understanding and a new social order. In Cuba, however, the watchword was still "Marxism-Leninism or death", as a group of Cubans had been punished for attempting to publish a small broadsheet calling for "restructuring" and "transparency" for Cuba too. According to the Cuban authorities, the broadsheet had contained serious indictments of the revolutionary system. In other words, the peaceful revolution that was under way in the communist countries was still not in the offing for Cuba.

62. With the exception of those at war, there were few countries in the world where the percentage of the population in detention was as high as in Cuba. The Cuban régime had, on occasion, acknowledged that the number of persons detained on political grounds was 15,000, from which it was possible to estimate the exact figure. However, strict control over the press made it possible to conceal and distort any complaints made in that connection.

63. A régime confronted with opposition and rejection by its people and a Government that prevented the free exercise of democracy and the holding of free elections had no means of remaining in power other than by resorting to force, repression and the imprisonment of political opponents. In a document dated 31 January 1988 received by her organization, Cuban political prisoners, writing to the United Nations, denounced the crimes, torture and manifold forms of violence they had suffered. Moreover, in the very room where the Commission was meeting there were former Cuban political detainees who had spent 20 or more years in prison.

64. Complaints of the violations committed described groundless convictions, imprisonment subsequent to denunciations by "committees for the defence of the revolution", confessions obtained by force and other degrading practices, not to mention restrictions on persons wishing to enter or leave Cuba. The rules prohibiting the departure from Cuba of young people aged between 27 and 30, members of the armed forces, public officials or any other persons known for their humanitarian activities or human rights activities were strictly applied, as had been found by the Commission on Human Rights mission that had visited Cuba. In Cuba, not only could one spend years waiting for permission to leave, but anyone who had left the country was not allowed to return. The Cuban Government thus practised banishment, a measure which did not exist in Cuban legislation but was in fact employed against emigrants and dissidents. Her organization appealed to the international community, and in particular the Commission on Human Rights, to call for the right for the Cuban people to choose its destiny in peace and freedom.

65. Mr. HARTLEY (World University Service) said that he wished to draw the Commission's attention to the situation in Guatemala, Colombia and Western Sahara; the situation in Peru would subsequently be described by his organization's delegate from that country.

66. Guatemala was the scene of extremely serious human rights violations, which were described by the Special Rapporteur on torture in his report (E/CN.4/1990/17). The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances also described numerous human rights violations by police and military personnel, in uniform or in civilian clothes, under the guise of the so-called "death squads" (E/CN.4/1990/13). His organization was particularly shocked by the fact that the entire leadership of the Guatemalan student movement had been attacked by death squads comprising members of the security forces and the army. More than 20 student leaders had been abducted; only 9 of them had been found - dead after torture. More than 20 other leaders had been forced into exile.

67. In Colombia, during the previous four years, repression of the political opposition and the popular movement had intensified. In 1989, the number of political murders and enforced disappearances had been as high as in previous years, and according to Colombian human rights organizations, there had been 144 cases of detainees disappearing without a trace. The majority of the victims of abductions and murders by paramilitary groups had been leaders and activists of progressive political parties, trade unionists, peasants and leaders of local non-governmental organizations.

68. In Colombia, enforced disapppearance was in fact a method of covert repression. It left little evidence, thereby ensuring immunity from prosecution for the abductors, but also had particularly painful psychological and moral repercussions on the victims' families and communities. As it was difficult to collect evidence and testimony, investigations into the fate of the victims were difficult, and it was virtually impossible to bring culprits to trial. In Colombia, as in most Latin American countries, the crime of enforced disappearance did not feature in the Penal Code, and the Government had taken no steps to remedy that shortcoming. The various bills presented to Parliament, in which the governing party possessed an absolute majority, had been shelved without discussion. And the Government had done nothing to dismantle the apparatus of repression or banish the militarist doctrines that were conducive to those forms of violence.

69. In 1988, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances had visited Colombia, and it was evident from its report that the State, the military and the police were involved in the disappearances in Colombia. Accordingly, his organization urged the Commission to continue to monitor enforced disappearances in Colombia by organizing a further visit, in order to ensure that the Government finally took measures to halt such violations of human rights.

70. In Western Sahara, where the Polisario Front had been waging a war of independence against Morocco since 1975, his organization had been informed of 857 cases of detention and disappearance of Sahrawis, 122 of whom were students. In 1988 more than 6,000 young Sahrawis aged between 17 and 30 had been deported to 84 different Moroccan towns and villages. That action had clearly formed part of a relocation and assimilation policy by the Moroccan Government in the context of its war against the Polisario Front rather than a contribution to the welfare of those young Sahrawis. It was very difficult to obtain information on the fate of those young people, but it had been reported that 86 students had managed to escape and return to Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria. Five students arrested in November 1989 had been beaten up by the police before being taken off to prison blindfolded. His organization had since received no further news of them.

71. Mrs. CUENTAS (World University Service) speaking as a witness called by the organization, said that with an inflation rate of 2,775 per cent per annum, more than 50 per cent of its active population unemployed or underemployed and 11,000 children dying each year of malnutrition, Peru was experiencing the most serious social, political and economic crisis in its history as a republic.

72. The Government responded with violence to the perfectly natural claims of trade-union and grass-roots organizations and of the country's most important professional associations. In order to be able to implement its unpopular measures, it had, together with the armed forces, perfected a system of organized repression against the civilian population by decreeing a state of emergency in the country's eight main provinces, which were under the absolute control of the armed forces. In 1989, as a result of those measures, 2,567 persons had lost their lives, frequently through extra-judicial executions by the army and the police, as in the case of the massacres of peasants in Pucallpa and in the province of Ayacucho, which was experiencing serious disturbances. In the same year, 34,320 persons had been arrested and 317 had disappeared after large-scale security sweeps. Disappearances and executions, which had become commonplace in Peru, most often took place in those provinces in which the state of emergency was in force.

73. Within the framework of the policy of repression implemented by the military high command and the Minister of the Interior, any citizen suspected of participating in the activities of an organization opposed to the Government was murdered without any form of trial, in blatant violation of the instruments on the treatment of prisoners, respect for life and care of wounded persons to which Peru had acceded. She listed several places where massacres of defenceless civilians had occurred.

74. In such an atmosphere, universities in Peru were deteriorating at all levels, as funds were insufficient to enable them to perform their fundamental role, let alone undertake research or development of science and technology.

They were also affected by the systematic violence suffered by the Peruvian people as a whole and had already experienced, three times in less than a year, violent raids by the police and army, while 33 bomb attacks had been committed by the Rodrigo Franco Command in several universities. Reference must also be made to the systematic disappearance of leaders of students' and teachers' organizations. The disappeared included her husband, Javier Alarcón Guzmán.

75. Javier Guzmán, a father of two children aged five and two and a teacher in the civil engineering faculty of the National University of Engineering, chairman or member of the board of several professional associations of workers and university personnel, member of the National Popular Assembly and a political leader, had been missing since 15 December 1989 when he had travelled for professional reasons to central Peru, where the state of emergency had been in force. She held the Government and the armed forces responsible for her husband's disappearance, since in spite of the declarations made to the competent authorities and the protests of numerous trade-union, grass-roots, intellectual and parliamentary organizations, no news of him had been given either by the Government or by the army.

76. She read out a long list of university teachers who had been murdered in Peru in that atmosphere of widespread violence.

77. The Commission on Human Rights could not remain silent in the face of such a tragic situation. It must demand that the Government of Alán García and the Peruvian army put an end to the systematic violations of human rights and take steps to ensure that Mr. Javier Alarcón Guzmán and the 3,000 other missing persons in Peru reappeared alive.

78. Mrs. TALEGHANI (International Falcon Movement) said, in connection with agenda item 10, that she wished to draw attention to the violations of human rights committed in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and more particularly to the 90,000 executions that had taken place there and to the fate of 150,000 political prisoners who had suffered horrific torture. She wished to allow one of the victims of the régime to speak.

79. Miss KOOHL (International Falcon Movement), testifying as a witness called by the organization, said that she was one of the very few victims of torture by the clerical régime in Iran who had managed to leave the country. She was 27 years of age, and both a student and a teacher. She had been arrested in Tehran, accused of supporting the Mojahedin, and taken directly to Evin prison. There, she had been blindfolded and attached to a bench while several torturers had whipped her. When her blindfold had slipped and allowed her to recognize a deputy from the Parliament among her torturers, he had become furious and repeatedly hit her on the face and sworn at her. Her torturers had taken it in turns to beat her with electrical cables on the soles of her feet, her body and even her head. After five hours of such treatment, she had been unable to walk.

80. As officers of the Commission had noted, she had subsequently required a skin graft on her feet. However, that had not marked the end of her torture, which had continued after her transfer, two months after her arrest, to a prison wing reserved for ordinary prisoners. Every day she had been taken to the torture chamber, where she had continued to be beaten on her wounds, which had bled profusely. The purpose of the torture had sometimes been to obtain

confessions, but it had often also been simply to inflict pain on prisoners. While undergoing torture, she had also been told to insult the leader of the Iranian resistance.

81. In spite of the years that had passed, she was still tormented when she remembered the torture and distressing scenes she had witnessed in prison. The brutality of the torture, in particular the sexual assaults on women, was beyond the imagination, and many victims had been driven insane. She had witnessed scenes of indescribable cruelty in which victims had been dismembered and then executed under torture.

82. After her arrest, she had been put in solitary confinement in a tiny cell with no sanitary facilities or light, in which she had lost all notion of time. She had never been able to change her clothes, which had been shredded as a result of her torture, and had suffered complete isolation, while being subjected to various types of torture. For one year, her torturers had given her a "daily ration" of lashes and compelled her to sit blindfolded for hours and listen to the torture inflicted on other prisoners. That psychological torment had been even harder to bear than the lashes, and she could still hear the sound of the whip.

83. After a year's solitary confinement, she had been tried at a travesty of a trial that had lasted only five minutes. A religious judge had read out a brief charge before sentencing her to death, without allowing her to speak in her own defence. She had subsequently lived in constant expectation of her execution, fearing each night that her turn would come at dawn. Every day, the guards had come to her cell to read out the list of prisoners to be taken away for execution. On some days the prisoners had counted as many as 200 coup de grâce shots, whose sound had reached the cells. In 1988, after five and a half years of torture in Tehran's prisons, she had been transferred to Isfahan, one of Iran's best known prisons on account of the torture practised there by the régime and the prisoners' heroic resistance. The most atrocious crime had been the massacre of political prisoners after the cease-fire in the war between Iran and Iraq, when 200 prisoners had been taken from the prison in which she had been held and executed. For four months, visits had been banned and the survivors had been put under even more severe pressure. The families of prisoners had been living in constant terror, and released prisoners had also been rearrested and executed. The death of Khomeini in June 1989 had been accompanied by an increase in political executions.

84. She had finally managed to gain freedom from that inferno and, in fear of being arrested again, had left Iran in August 1989 with the assistance of a resistance network. Before leaving, she had witnessed many scenes of hangings in various districts of Tehran and had realized that the prisons she had experienced had merely been a microcosm of the much larger prison that the whole of Iran had become.

85. Mr. AHMED (Observer for the Sudan), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that at the previous meeting, when he had introduced agenda item 10 (a), the Special Rapporteur had mentioned the appeal sent to the Sudanese authorities in connection with nine detainees and had expressed surprise that he had not so far received a reply. The appeal only dated from 31 January 1990 and a reply on such a matter could not reasonably be expected within only two weeks. When a previous appeal had been sent to the Government, on 10 November 1989, the Permanent Mission of the Sudan had

replied in a communication dated 30 November, i.e. within only three weeks (E/CN.4/1990/17, paras. 145 and 146). He therefore wondered why the Special Rapporteur seemed to expect a more rapid reply to the second appeal.

86. Furthermore, the manner in which the appeal sent after publication of the report had been referred to left his Government with the impression that its right of reply had in some way been usurped.

87. The list of detainees mentioned in the appeal was very inaccurate; some of them had never been held in pre-trial detention while others had been released when judicial formalities had been completed or after the inquiry had shown that no specific charge could be made against them.

88. He therefore expressly requested that the remarks concerning the appeal sent to his Government should not appear in the record of the session. That appeal was being studied and would be answered in due course.

89. Mr. PHARAON (Observer for the Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it would have been preferable if the representative of Amnesty International, who had mentioned torture in Syria, had taken the trouble to check the authenticity of her information before making her allegations. It should be borne in mind that under Syrian legislation persons who practised torture were liable to legal proceedings and that an official inquiry was initiated whenever such cases came to the attention of the courts.

90. In any event, the Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic in Geneva co-operated closely and regularly with the United Nations human rights bodies, and had always answered their requests for information after having contacted the Centre for Human Rights in order to ascertain what information was sought. It intended to continue such collaboration both with the Centre and with Amnesty International.

91. The question nevertheless remained why that NGO failed to denounce cases of torture that occurred in other places such as the occupied Arab territories, particularly Palestine, and in Azania against blacks. It seemed to be forgetting the thousands of cases of torture that occurred in those regions, and merely focused on a few isolated cases, whose authenticity remained to be proved.

92. He nevertheless assured Amnesty International that the cases mentioned would be thoroughly investigated. That would be made easier if the organization gave him the necessary clarification.

93. Mr. OMAR (Observer for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) emphasized the importance of the role of NGOs in general for the work of the Economic and Social Council, and the Commission on Human Rights in particular. It was precisely on account of the seriousness displayed by many of those organizations that it was disturbing to note the way in which others abused their consultative status. If the reputation of NGOs in general was to be preserved, some of them, such as the organization which claimed to defend progressive Judaism and whose puppet representative merely sought to poison the atmosphere in the Commission with his slanders against Islam and Muslims,

should be prevented from jeopardizing the others in that way. He would refrain from responding to the accusations made, but queried the role that NGOs were called upon to play.

94. Mr. ALVAREZ VITA (Peru), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that in his statement made during the time allotted to Pax Romana, Mr. Piqueras, a deputy in the Peruvian Parliament, had mentioned only one of the terrorist groups currently operating in Peru, the Rodrigo Franco Command. That biased view of the situation might give a false idea of the full context in which that group was operating and distort the picture presented to the Commission.

95. The foremost of the three terrorist groups concerned was the "Shining Path" movement, inspired by Pol Pot. That group had committed and continued to commit numerous acts of violence: murders, destruction of infrastructure, attacks against diplomatic missions (those of the USSR, the United States of America, China and India) and, generally speaking, massive violations of the rights of the Peruvian population, whether civil and political or economic, social and cultural.

96. The second revolutionary movement was the Tupac Amaru movement, an extreme left-wing movement which had also committed murders and other human rights violations. The deputy had made no mention of those two movements but had merely referred to the third, the Rodrigo Franco Command, whose extreme right-wing ideology was the antithesis of that of the other two.

97. As indicated in the report on the forty-fifth session of the Commission, world opinion disapproved equally of all three revolutionary movements. However, according to the report by the National Pacification Commission of the Peruvian Senate, chaired by a senator of the United Left, in 1989 1,632 attacks had been attributable to Shining Path, 217 to the Tupac Amaru movement and 37 to the Rodrigo Franco Command. That gave an idea of the involvement of those movements in acts of violence, which the Government condemned with equal vigour. It should be further noted that, according to the same report, Shining Path had murdered 144 public officials, including 52 mayors and 92 judges, as well as 1,000 or so civilians in the days prior to the municipal elections, and that it was preparing to disrupt the national elections to be held in March 1990.

98. In connection with the contribution of the two other NGOs that had mentioned cases of disappearances in Peru, he assured the Commission that complaints concerning such cases that had been lodged with the judicial authorities would be investigated. In addition, the Government of Peru would continue to co-operate fully with the Commission in shedding light on cases of disappearance and punish the culprits as provided for in the national legislation in force.

The public meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

The summary record of the second part of the meeting (closed) appears as document E/CN.4/1990/SR.24/Add.1.